

# News

## From the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission

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### Press Release

#### **KENTUCKY STATE NATURE PRESERVES PUBLISHES MUSSEL GUIDE**

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Nov. 18, 2003) -- The Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission (KSNPC) has published *A Guide to the Freshwater Mussels of Kentucky*. This mussel guide is the state's only complete reference to this diverse and highly imperiled group.

Designed for anyone interested in aquatic organisms, this 62-page guide provides information on each of the 104 mussel species documented in Kentucky. Introductory text and figures briefly describe mussel biology, anatomy, life history, importance, and conservation, and provide guidance on making field observations. Accounts for each species include a color image, shell description, habitat, distribution, similar species and conservation status. Lists of references and additional literature on Kentucky mussels are included.

The 8.5 x 11-inch guide is published as contribution number seven to the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission Scientific and Technical Series (ISBN -0-9673646-6-3) and is available by contacting KSNPC by mail at 801 Schenkel Lane, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-1403, by phone at (502) 573-2886, or by e-mailing [nrepc.ksnpcemail@mail.state.ky.us](mailto:nrepc.ksnpcemail@mail.state.ky.us).

KSNPC's mission is to protect Kentucky's natural heritage by: (1) identifying, acquiring and managing natural areas that represent the best-known occurrences of rare, native species, natural communities and significant natural features in a statewide nature preserve system; (2) working with others to protect biological diversity; and (3) educating Kentuckians as to the value and purpose of nature preserves and biodiversity conservation. The commission inventories Kentucky for significant natural areas and protects the best examples in a state nature preserve system with 18,274 acres statewide.

More information about the commission can be obtained by mail (KSNPC, 801 Schenkel Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601-1403), by telephone (502) 573-2886 or on the Internet ([www.kynaturepreserves.org](http://www.kynaturepreserves.org)).